

**CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A method for treating septic disorders comprising

- (a) determining the serum level of interleukin-6 in a patient at a first time  $t_1$ ,
- (b) determining the serum level of interleukin-6 in the patient at a second time  $t_2$  which is at least 30 minutes after the first time  $t_1$ , and
- (c) where the serum level of interleukin-6 at  $t_2$  is higher than the serum level of interleukin-6 at  $t_1$  in a measurement period of at least thirty minutes, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a TNF antagonist to the patient.

2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the serum level of interleukin-6 is 500pg/ml or and above at  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  in the measurement period.

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $t_2$  the measurement period is 4-10 hours after  $t_1$ .

4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an  $F(ab')_2$  fragment of a monoclonal anti-TNF antibody is used as the TNF antagonist.

5. (previously presented) A kit comprising a TNF antagonist together with instructions for the use of this TNF antagonist for treating septic disorders where the serum level of IL-6 increases in a measurement period of at least thirty minutes.

6. (previously presented) A kit as claimed in claim 5, wherein a monoclonal anti-TNF antibody is used as TNF antagonist.

7. (currently amended) A method for establishing whether a patient suffering from sepsis is to be treated with TNF antagonists, which comprises the following steps:

- (a) determination of the serum level of interleukin-6 in the patient at a first time  $t_1$ ,
- (b) determination of the serum level of interleukin-6 at a second time  $t_2$  which is at least 30 minutes after the first time  $t_1$ , and determination of the ratio

$$V = \frac{\text{IL-6 level (}t_2\text{)}}{\text{IL-6 level (}t_1\text{)}}, \text{ and}$$

- (c) treatment with TNF antagonists in the case where  $V > 1$ .